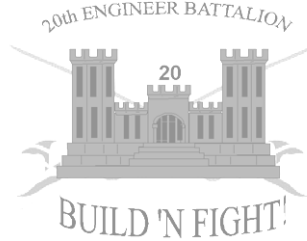




Bravo 20th Engineer
Battalion

BARRACUDA

OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM 2004



B Company Newsletter August 2004



Our soldiers in "action" during a mission to investigate suspected terrorists.



Commander's Update:

The month of July has brought with it numerous changes for Team Barracuda as well as the entire 1st Brigade Combat Team (1BCT). As everyone knows the Iraqi government assumed control from the Coalition Provincial Authority on 28 June 04. This was a history making date, one in which the Barracuda's will always be linked to as we were forward deployed setting conditions for this to happen. Internally the company has undergone several personnel changes most notably being the new operations team of SSG Sherman England and SGT Jurgen Oberkirsch. These are the guys who work with the XO and 1SG to make the day-to-day activities happen. The big change in the company however has to be the change of command between CPT David Woodruff and CPT Dennis Pintor. Dave and his family will always be part of the Barracuda family and we wish him luck in his new position on Division Staff. CPT P, Stacy, and Rhea are excited to join the Barracudas and already eternally grateful for the welcome they have been extended.

Our higher command in TF Charger and 1BCT has taken several measures to help decrease the company's operational tempo or in plain speak 'how much we work'. One of these measures was to increase the use of the Iraqi National Guard (ING) in our mission cycle. The ING has made great strides in their training and have successfully worked side by side with Team Barracuda. Another measure is to focus on streamlining our workload so we focus on priority missions that help establish security in our zone. The results from these measures are more allotted time for 'routine' but important functions like administrative actions, maintenance, and supply actions. Most importantly though this allows for our great soldiers have more personal time to themselves and to enjoy some of quality of life improvements on Camp Eagle like the new internet café and the 64" TV with cable for our company dayroom (just in time for football season!!!)

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Cont. Commander's Update

Additionally we assumed the security mission at the UN compound. We continue to improve living conditions there as well as maintain a security presence in our assigned sector. During the potentially dangerous times associated with the Transitional of Sovereignty, we assumed 24 guard of the Farabi Power Sub-station. The Farabi Power station was declared a 1st Cavalry Division priority target and the Barracuda answered the call with joint effort of Iraqi facility guards, ING, and Multi-National Forces resulting in no incidents at the station during the period. Lastly the team began to shift our mission focus to operations that more Civil Military operations in order to improve the Iraqi quality of life. We recently deliver bulk quantities of water when there was a shortage. We identified several civil engineer projects to be discussed in the Neighborhood Advisory Council that CPT Pintor attends each week. Lastly SGT Lyn Thomas and SPC Matt Miller utilized their M9 ACEs to help clear trash and debris along roads in our sector. This not only helps cleans the areas, but helps in our security situation as roadside bombs cannot be hidden in the trash alongside our routes.

Thanks to Jess Stocker, Morgan Whisenant, and Stacy Pintor and the rest of the FRG for their continual hard work back at Ft. Hood. Their efforts have really set in the new commander up for success. Less than 12 hours after the company change of command we had our first VTC from Camp Eagle back to Ft. Hood. The VTC was a bit stressful with some technical difficulties on both ends, but we had 18 soldiers have an opportunity to see and talk to their loved ones if only for a brief moment or two. We will continue to coordinate for these events in the future in an effort to ease the stress of our deployment.



Lastly we continue to be able to send several soldiers home as part of the R&R Leave Program. We received our first group back into theater from their leave. One soldier SGT Timothy Barksdale really made the most of his leave and got married to Demetrius .

Lastly we welcome SSG Billy Keen and his family back to the team after a tour in the 20 EN S-3 Shop.

Bless us all and continue to keep us safe!
BARRACUDA!



Welcome New "Barracuda" Babies

-  Dominique born to SPC Lester and Yaeley Orellana, 7lbs 11oz, on 12 May 04.
-  Dawson born to SPC Bradley and Kathy Bailey, 9lbs 9oz, on 6 Jul 04.

Welcome Home and Job Well Done



Just want to take a minute to recognize several of our injured soldiers that made it home to recuperate, heal, and most of all rest. These soldiers were honored with the US Army Purple Heart Medal for their outstanding service and courage while fighting in Operation Iraqi Freedom except PFC Baldwin and SFC Bessellieu who did not deploy. They are Rear Detachment and have been incredibly valuable and helpful to the FRG amongst all their other duties as Rear Detachment. Thank you!!!

LEFT TO RIGHT:

SGT Obryant, Steven - PFC Baldwin, Eric - SPC Matias, Joel - PFC Mclean, Michael - PFC Moser, Jonathan - SGT Mauzerall, Peter - SGT Lecheminant, Derek - SFC Bessellieu, Lyman



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FRG Corner

Hello, B Company! I, Stacy Pintor the new girl on the block, just want to take a moment, to say how extremely happy I am to be a part of the "Barracuda" family and already feel at home. Thank you! Jessica, Morgan, myself, and many other wonderful FRG volunteers are very committed and passionate about the success of B Company which includes the soldiers and of course us, the soldier's biggest fans, the family members. I want to commend you, the family members, for enduring this great sacrifice of being separated and for being as strong as you are to carry on. Our soldiers depend on our support so that they can do their mission well and know that we are holding down "the fort" here.

But we need support too and that's what the Family Readiness Group (FRG) is for. The FRG has four goals:

- Update family members on their soldiers and the deployment as well as community activities/events.
- Decrease the feeling of being alone and to reach out and support each other.
- Ensure all family members know how to get needed information and services.
- Recognize family members for their support and selfless service in helping others in the FRG.

The FRG Leadership:

- **Leader:** Jessica Stocker
- **Co-Leaders:** Morgan Whisenant and Stacy Pintor
- **Treasurer:** Erin Kubena
- **Secretary:** Melissa Moreno

Jessica, Morgan, Erin, Melissa, and many of you have done a superb job getting the FRG to where it is today and have truly provided selfless service to the family members. Thank you for your heart, compassion, and most of all, your hard work and time.

The Family Readiness Group newsletter contains Official information and complies with the Provision of AS 360-81, AR 25-51, and Fort Hood's MOI for dissemination of Family Support Group Newsletter.

Fundraising Update

Where would we be without Morgan Whisenant and her Fundraising Committee? Morgan has come up with different fundraising ideas and put her skills to work to raise several hundreds of dollars for the FRG account. All of this money is used for soldier care packages, family member social events, gifts for new babies, and cards for family member and soldier hospitalizations, and much more. Our current fundraising efforts are 20th EN BN T-shirts which have been very popular. If you are interested in a T-Shirt, please place an order with Morgan at (254) 690-7732.



Upcoming Events:

August 19- Educational Services for Spouses

Provide assistance for college prep classes, computer skills, degree plan, financial aid and scholarships, on-line degrees and much more. At the Soldiers Development Center, Bldg 33009, 761st Tank Battalion Ave, at 6:00pm, 287-4432.

August 20- Hawaiian Luau Take a vacation without leaving Fort Hood at this Hawaiian Luau dinner. Call 532-5329 for reservations and more information at the O'Club.

August 27- Pool Party & Karaoke Members of the Officers Club and their guests will enjoy the end of summer with a splash at this pool party and karaoke contest.

Every Tuesday- Beef and Burgundy Enjoy a feast of salad, sliced steamship round with au jus, side items, wine and more. Open to the public and all ranks from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. in the Mesquite Room, O'Club.

Every Weekend- Sunday Brunch at O'Club Treat your family to delicious breakfast and lunch items, waffle bar, omelet bar, salad, fresh fruit and tempting desserts at this Fort Hood tradition. Open to all ranks and members of the general public. Call 532-5329 for reservations.